



## ***CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA***

The **Miami Springs Historic Preservation Board** met at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, August 18, 2011 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **1) Call to Order/Roll Call**

The following were present: Chair Mary Ann Goodlett-Taylor  
Yvonne Shonberger  
Michael Windrem

Absent: Vice Chair Sydney Garton  
Charles M. Hill

Also Present: Board Secretary Elora R. Sakal

### **2) Approval of Minutes: April 21, 2011 Regular Meeting**

**The minutes of the April 21, 2011 meeting were not approved because Board member Windrem could not second the motion due to his absence at that meeting.**

### **3) Old Business: Discussion of canceling the support of the Historical Museum**

Chair Goodlett-Taylor advised the Board of the Gazette publication explaining the possible cut of the City's support of the Historical Museum.

Board member Shonberger stated that the City has archives.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor explained that it is nothing like the museum that she has put together.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor asked a guest if she had been to the Historical Museum and what her opinion was about it.

Guest Annette McLean stated that she has been to the museum and she believes that it should be preserved.

Discussion ensued by Chair Goodlett-Taylor explaining how important and sentimental the Museum is to her.

Board member Michael Windrem noted that he does not believe that the funding is considered being cut because of any significance of the Museum, but it is being considered because of the budget issues.

Guest Annette McLean asked the Board if there have ever been any opportunities for fund raising to keep the Historical Museum in operation.

Board member Shonberger advised the Board and guest that the Historical Society is planning several fund raisers for next year.

To answer Board member Windrem's question, Board member Shonberger stated that she has asked for \$1,500 for this year.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor reiterated that the Historical Museum is something the City needs to continue to honor, maintain and sustain.

Guest Annette McLean asked if there is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program occurring at the Curtiss Mansion.

Board member Shonberger replied in agreement.

Guest Annette McLean asked if it is possible to become a Liaison to the Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport, New York.

Board member Shonberger replied that they communicate with the museum a lot. She noted that the museum in Hammondsport has donated and helped the Historical Museum in Miami Springs in many ways.

Guest William Carter gave his opinion regarding the importance and potential that Miami Springs has historically.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of having citizens become aware of Glenn Curtiss.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor explained the many accomplishments that Glenn Curtiss had achieved all over the country.

Guest Annette McLean noted that Hammondsport, NY and Miami Springs have many things in common such as both of the Cities being small and quaint.

**4) New Business:**

**A. Discussion Regarding the 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

Chair Goodlett-Taylor asked Board member Shonberger if the Historical Museum will be open during the Birthday celebration.

Board member Shonberger stated that it will ~~not only~~ be open, ~~but~~ and admission will be free. ~~as well.~~ She noted that she also put an ad in the Gazette to advertise and advise Miami Springs of the free admission. She advised the Board and guests that she is also looking for volunteers to help on that evening.

Discussion ensued regarding the loss of historic sites that existed in Miami Springs and in Hialeah as well.

**B. Discussion Regarding the Curtiss Mansion**

Chair Goodlett-Taylor explained her concern over the possible loss of the Curtiss Mansion. She noted that she encourages citizens to speak up and express their concerns and opinions as well.

Guest William Carter was of the opinion that there are many possibilities and potentials; it is just a matter of how it is handled.

Board member Windrem noted that the purpose of the 55-year lease is so that the City does not have to be responsible for the upkeep on the Mansion.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor commented that the City could lose control of it and it should belong to the citizens of Miami Springs. She noted that she does not want to lose control and have someone else controlling the Mansion.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor hopes that Curtiss Mansion, Inc. (CMI) can receive the funds to pay off the Mansion and continue to own it.

Board member Shonberger asked what Chair Goodlett-Taylor meant by paying it back.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor clarified that CMI still has a debt that they owe on the Mansion and that they borrowed funds from the City.

Guest William Carter asked the Board what their plans were for the Curtiss Mansion.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor replied that they want to have weddings and social events held at the Mansion. She noted that in her opinion that is where the museum should be relocated to.

Guest William Carter asked for Board member Windrem's opinion on the Curtiss Mansion issue.

Board member Windrem stated that the problem with anything historical is that (1) it has to be historical (2) it has to have a use and (3) it has to financially make sense. He commented that the Mansion has been vacant for 30 years. He advised the Board that now that the Mansion has value, they need to figure out what to do with it.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor explained that it would become a large tourist attraction if it were known all over the country.

Board member Windrem stated that whoever is in charge of the decisions needs to be aware of those possibilities.

Board member Shonberger noted that she found an article from 1957 stating that the Villas grossed \$2MM in 1957 and now it is a \$5MM building with no mortgage on it. She expressed her opinion that all the Board is asking for is a tax credit. She explained that if the City renewed the lease every 5 years, then maybe in 5 years they will be able to start compensating for rent.

Board member Windrem asked if the tenant wants to use the Mansion for the school.

Board member Shonberger stated that she has no issues with the school or possibilities of renting the Mansion out for weddings and such events because everyone has been waiting for that. She expressed her concerns of what would happen if after 10 to 15 years it begins grossing over \$1MM a year. She asked if the City would be able to receive some part of it.

Board member Windrem explained that it depends on the structure of the lease.

Guest Annette McLean asked if the Board could recommend that the museum in Miami Springs be moved to the Curtiss Mansion at least in part.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor noted that that is what she would like to happen.

Guest Annette McLean asked who is in charge of the Curtiss Mansion.

Chair Goodlett-Taylor advised that it is a group called Curtiss Mansion Inc. (CMI) and they are citizens who give their time to put all the information about the Mansion and Glenn Curtiss together.

To answer guest Annette McLean's question, Chair Goodlett-Taylor replied that they are a not for profit organization.

Guest Annette McLean asked several questions in regard to CMI and the Curtiss Mansion. She advised the Board that there are many large corporations that deal with aviation companies close to Miami Springs and they should somehow be involved in order to make this endeavor for Miami Springs possible.

Board member Shonberger asked the guest if she would be willing to volunteer to work on that idea.

Guest Annette McLean advised the Board that she is not a permanent resident of Miami Springs but that she would be willing to do whatever she can over the phone or when she is in Miami Springs and would like to volunteer and help.

**5) Reports/Requests:**

**A. Council Liaison**

No reports.

**B. Board members**

No reports.


**6) Other Business:**

Board Secretary Elora R. Sakal advised the Board of the elevator repair that will take place the month of September. The Board agreed to cancel the meeting for September and resume on October 20, 2011.

7) **Adjourn**

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Elora R. Sakal  
Board Secretary

Approved as amended at meeting of: January 19, 2012

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